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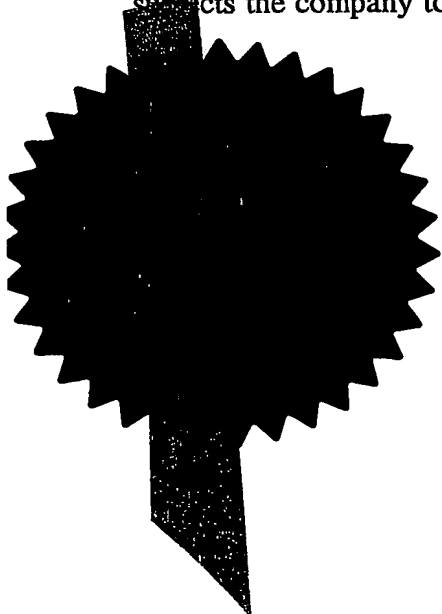
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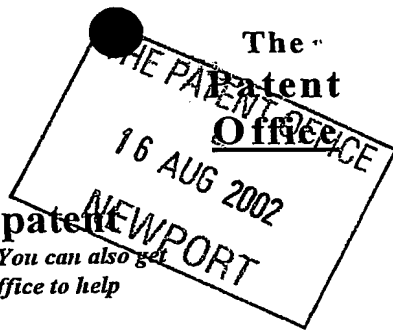
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P. Mahoney

Signed

Dated 1 May 2003



16 AUG 2002

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The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

Your reference

B422 GB3

16AUG02 E741622-1 D01554
P01/7700 0.00-0219102.1

Patent application number
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0219102.1

Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Tyco Electronics Raychem N.V.
Diestsesteenweg 692
B-3010 Kessel-Lo
Belgium

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

7954407001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

Belgium

Title of the invention OPTICAL CIRCUIT ENCLOSURE

Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Anthony William JAY
TYCO ELECTRONICS UK LTD.
European Patent Department
Faraday Road, Dorcan, Swindon
Wiltshire, SN3 5HH,
United Kingdom.

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

785323001 E1

If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(*if you know it*)

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(*if you know it*)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer YES)

'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

1. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

2

Claims(s)

1

DML

Abstract

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Drawing(s)

2+2

2. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

FEE SHEET ✓

3. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Tony Jay

Date 15 August 2002

4. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Tony Jay

01793 572095

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OPTICAL CIRCUIT ENCLOSURE

Our co-pending U.K. Patent Application No. 0209974.5 (B422 GB2), the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, describes and claims an optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting
5 the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, the said enclosure comprising a tray-type container containing the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s), and a tamper-evident closure member sealing the said container around the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre. The tamper-evident closure member is preferably a laminar element, such as a metallised flexible
10 sheet, sealed to the periphery of the container. Optical fibres entering and/or leaving the enclosure are sealed between the tamper-evident closure member and a surface of the tray-type container.

By way of addition to the aforementioned application, the present invention provides
15 a variant wherein optical fibres entering and/or leaving the enclosure are sealed between opposed portions of the tamper-evident closure member, instead of between the tamper-evident closure member and the container tray. This variant according to the present invention has the advantages that the location of the sealed fibre entry and exit points can readily be altered in the installation factory to unit particular user requirements, without re-
20 designing the container; that the entry/exit points can be located above the container and wholly within its periphery, thus reducing the overall spread of the enclosure; and that the closure member can be more reliably sealed to the container surface in the absence of intervening optical fibres.

25 Specific embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows optical circuitry with optical fibres leading to and from the same being laid between opposed portions of a flexible, metallised tamper-evident closure sheet;

Figure 2 shows the two portions of the closure sheet sealed around the fibres;

- 2 -

Figure 3 shows the assembly after rotation of the closure sheet in the sense indicated by the arrows in Fig. 2;

Figure 4 shows the assembly of Fig. 3 being brought towards the tray-type container;

Figure 5 shows the enclosure resulting from Fig. 4;

5 Figure 6 shows an alternative position of the fibre entry and exit seals achieved simply by altering the shape and arrangement of the closure sheet; and

Figures 7 and 8 show the aforementioned less favourable arrangement, not according to the present invention, wherein the fibres are sealed between the closure sheet and the container surface.

Claims

1) An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, the said enclosure comprising:

- a tray-type container containing the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s);
and
- a tamper-evident closure member sealing the said container around the said enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre, wherein optical fibres entering and/or leaving the enclosure are sealed between opposed portions of the tamper-evident closure member.

* * * * *

Fig. 1

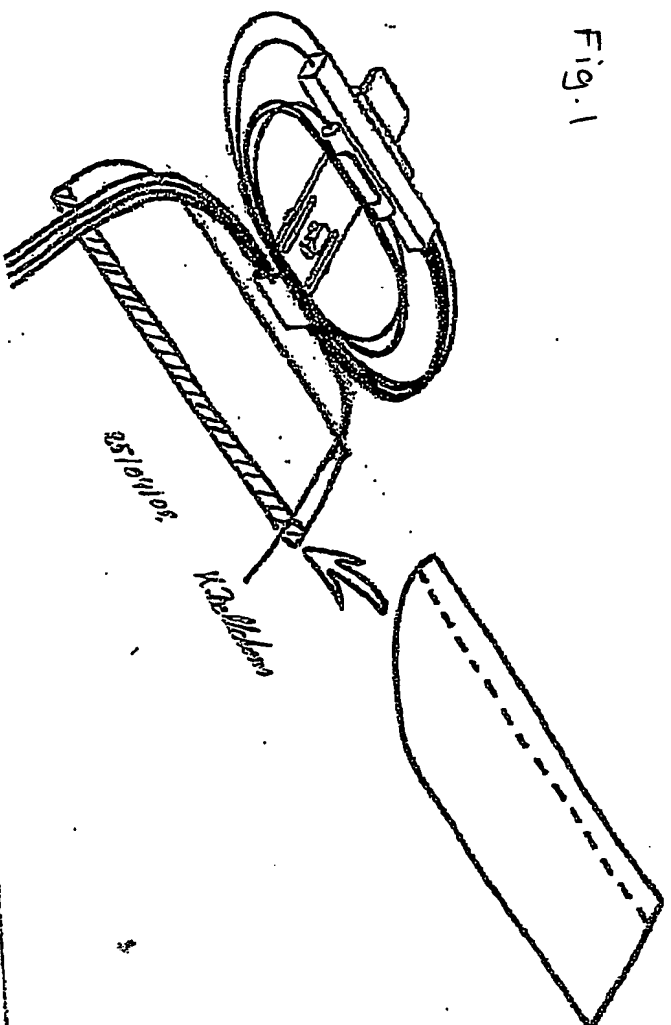


Fig. 2

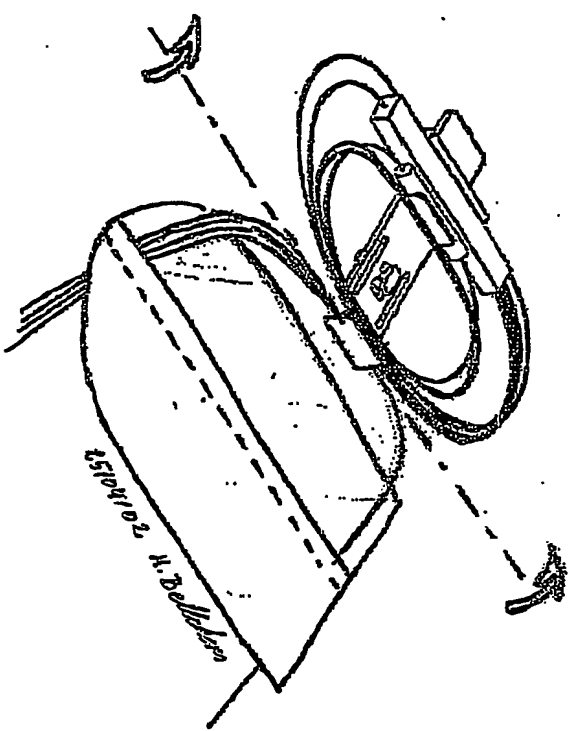


Fig. 3

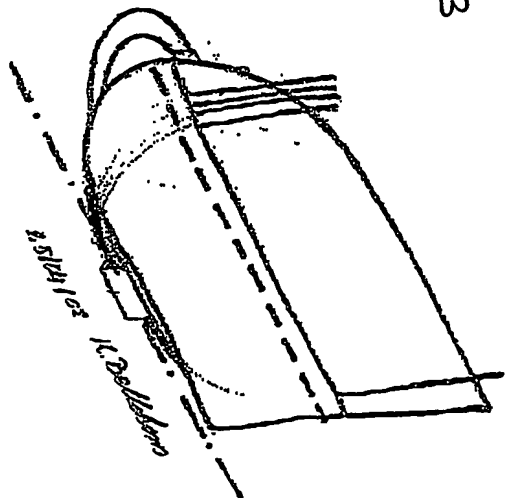


Fig. 4

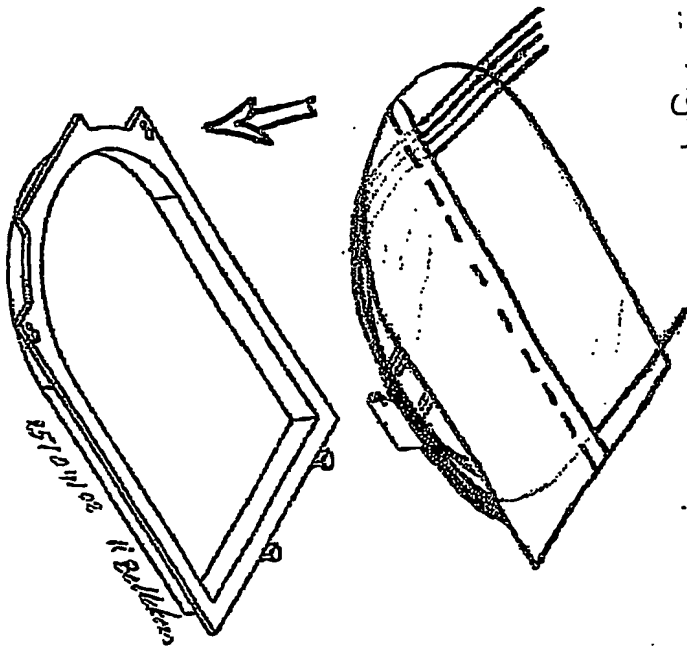


Fig. 5.

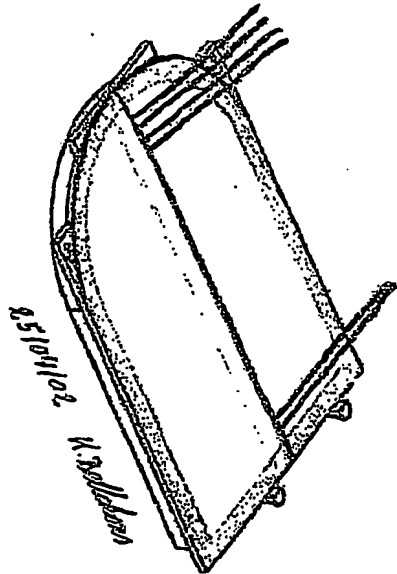


Fig. 6.

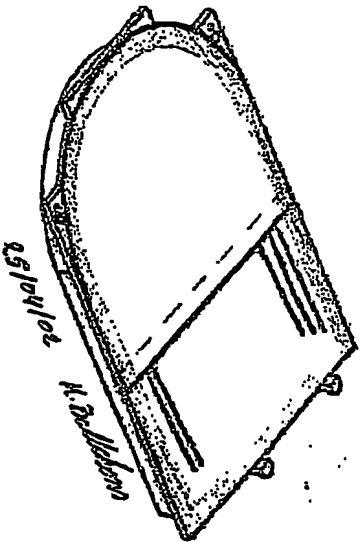


Fig. 7

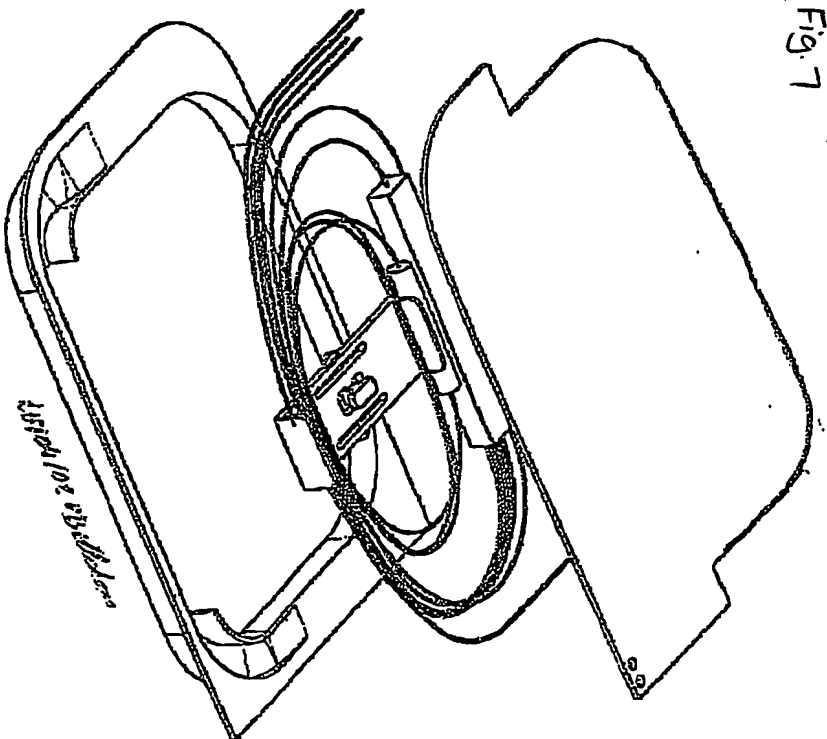


Fig. 8

